

CLAIMS

What is claimed:

1. A method of providing a modified context menu in place of an existing context menu in existing software, the method comprising:

providing a client-side software module for modifying an existing context menu, the client-side software module comprising additional menu information, the client-side software module being configured for:

detecting an event that requires display of a context menu;

modifying the existing context menu based on the additional menu information; and

displaying the modified context menu;

wherein the modified context menu is different than the existing context menu, the modified context menu comprising an additional menu item as part of the context menu, the additional menu item being positioned within the modified context menu in accordance with the additional menu information and not in accordance with the existing software.
2. The method of claim 1, the existing context menu comprising at least one existing menu item, the additional menu item being positioned above the existing menu item in the modified context menu.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the modified context menu comprises an icon displayed with the additional menu item.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the additional menu information comprises information related to an icon to be associated with the additional menu item.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the additional menu item comprises at least one sub menu that comprises at least one additional sub menu item.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein the client-side software module is provided to a user computer, the user computer displaying a Web page, the Web page being divided into regions, the method further comprising determining in what region the user is interacting with the Web page when the event occurs.
7. The method of claim 6, further comprising selecting for display the additional menu item from a plurality of potential menu items based on the determined region.
8. The method of claim 1, wherein the client-side software module is provided to a user computer, the user computer displaying a user interface, the method further comprising determining a location of the user interface at which the user is interacting with the user interface when the event occurs.

9. The method of claim 8, further comprising selecting for display the additional menu item from a plurality of potential menu items based on the determined region.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the client-side software module is provided to a user computer, the user computer displaying a user interface, the user interface comprising a plurality of elements, the method further comprising determining which element of the plurality of elements the user is interacting with when the event occurs.

11. The method of claim 10, further comprising selecting for display the additional menu item from a plurality of potential menu items based on the determined element.

12. The method of claim 1, further comprising selecting for display the additional menu item from a plurality of potential menu items based on the location of a user computer to which the client-side software module is provided.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein the client-side software module is provided to a user computer, the user computer displaying a Web page, the Web page comprising a plurality of elements, the method further comprising determining which element of the plurality of elements the user is interacting with when the event occurs.

14. The method of claim 13, further comprising selecting for display the additional menu item from a plurality of potential menu items based on the determined element.

15. The method of claim 13, wherein determining which element the user is interacting with comprises:

identifying an element from the plurality of elements that comprise an

HTML structure;

determining a type of the element;

saving information related to the element;

determining when the user has selected text; and

saving the selected text.

16. The method of claim 15 wherein identifying an element from the plurality of elements that make up the HTML structure, determining the type of the element, and saving information related to the element are repeated for elements above a first identified element in the HTML structure until an element above the first identified element is no longer valid.

17. The method of claim 15, wherein the additional menu item is configured based on the saved information related to the element and the saved text.

18. The method of claim 1, further comprising, prior to modifying the existing context menu, obtaining information related to the existing context menu.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein the obtaining comprises subclassing a browser window.
20. The method of claim 1, wherein the client-side software module comprises a control that operates with the browser.
21. The method of claim 20, wherein the control is implemented using an ActiveX control.
22. The method of claim 1, further comprising providing the additional menu item as part of a general feed including button characteristics of a plurality of buttons for a downloadable toolbar, wherein the downloadable toolbar receives the additional menu item as a button that is not displayed.
23. The method of claim 22, wherein the providing of the additional menu item is performed by a server.
24. The method of claim 1, the modifying the existing context menu comprising adding the additional menu item to the existing context menu using an application programming interface.
25. The method of claim 1, wherein an Internet content provider maintains for a user a user account comprising user account information, and the modified context menu is configured based on the user account information.

26. The method of claim 25, further comprising selecting for display the additional menu item from a plurality of potential menu items based on the user account information.

27. The method of claim 25, further comprising providing the user with the ability to log in to the content provider.

28. The method of claim 27, wherein the selecting for display the additional menu item is determined by the content provider based upon the user account information such that the selection of the additional menu item is personalized in accordance with preferences of the user.

29. The method of claim 28, wherein the user account information is maintained by the content provider, independent of a first computer having a first browser that the user utilizes, such that the selection of the additional menu item remains personalized when the user utilizes a second computer having a second browser.

30. The method of claim 29, wherein the personalization of the selection of the additional menu item is based upon the location of the first computer, when the user utilizes the first computer, and is based upon the location of the second computer, when the user utilizes the second computer, such that the selection of the additional menu item is modified based upon a location of a computer utilized by the user.

31. The method of claim 1, wherein the modified context menu is configured based on a detected location at which the user is utilizing the existing software.

32. A method of providing a modified context menu in place of an existing context menu in existing software, the method comprising controlling an Internet browser user interface displayable by an Internet browser on a display of a computer, and enabling a user of the computer and Internet browser to access and navigate the Internet and to receive and display one or more Web pages from one or more Internet sites, including the display of a Web page from a predetermined Internet site, the Internet browser having at least one Internet browser toolbar having at least one toolbar button providing predetermined functionality to the user of the computer and Internet browser, the method comprising:

providing, at the predetermined Internet site, access to a client-side software module for controlling the Internet browser interface; and making available for downloading by the predetermined Internet site the client-side software module for causing the display of a user toolbar that, by virtue of its being downloaded, makes additional functionality that is not part of the Internet browser prior to download available to the user after download, such that once the user toolbar is displayed the user toolbar remains displayed and the additional functionality remains available to the user regardless of a subsequent Internet site to which the Internet browser is caused to navigate after download;

the client-side software module being configured for:

- detecting an event that requires display of a context menu;
- modifying the existing context menu based on additional menu information; and
- displaying the modified context menu;

wherein the modified context menu is different than the existing context menu, the modified context menu comprising an additional menu item as part of the context menu, the additional menu item being positioned within the modified context menu in accordance with the additional menu information and not in accordance with the existing software.

33. A method of controlling an Internet browser interface displayable by an Internet browser on a display of a computer, and enabling a user of the computer and Internet browser to access and navigate the Internet and to receive and display on the computer display one or more Web pages from one or more Internet sites, comprising:

- providing, at a predetermined Internet site, access to a program for controlling the Internet browser interface and making available for downloading by the predetermined Internet site, a file for causing the display of a persistent user toolbar, the user toolbar making additional functionality that is not part of the Internet browser prior to download available to the user after download as part of the Internet browser interface, the additional functionality comprising:
 - detecting an event that requires display of a context menu;

modifying the existing context menu based on additional menu
information; and
displaying the modified context menu;
wherein the modified context menu is different than the existing context
menu, the modified context menu comprising an additional menu
item as part of the context menu, the additional menu item being
positioned within the modified context menu in accordance with
the additional menu information and not in accordance with the
existing software.

34. Computer readable computer code comprising a software module
for providing a modified context menu in place of an existing context menu in existing
software, the computer code, when executed by a computer, causing the computer to
perform a method comprising:

detecting an event that requires display of a context menu;
modifying the existing context menu based on additional menu
information; and
displaying the modified context menu;
wherein the modified context menu is different than the existing context
menu, the modified context menu comprising an additional menu
item as part of the context menu, the additional menu item being
positioned within the modified context menu in accordance with
the additional menu information and not in accordance with the
existing software.

35. The computer code of claim 34, the existing context menu comprising at least one existing menu item, the additional menu item being positioned above the existing menu item in the modified context menu.

36. The computer code of claim 34, wherein the modified context menu comprises an icon displayed with the additional menu item.

37. The computer code of claim 34, wherein the additional menu information comprises information related to an icon to be associated with the additional menu item.

38. The computer code of claim 34, wherein the additional menu item comprises at least one sub menu that comprises at least one additional sub menu item.

39. The computer code of claim 34, wherein the client-side software module is provided to a user computer, the user computer displaying a Web page, the Web page being divided into regions, the method further comprising determining in what region the user is interacting with the Web page when the event occurs.

40. The computer code of claim 39, the method performed by the computer further comprising selecting for display the additional menu item from a plurality of potential menu items based on the determined region.

41. The computer code of claim 34, wherein the client-side software module is provided to a user computer, the user computer displaying a Web page, the Web page comprising a plurality of elements, the method further comprising determining which element of the plurality of elements the user is interacting with when the event occurs.

42. The computer code of claim 41, the method performed by the computer further comprising selecting for display the additional menu item from a plurality of potential menu items based on the determined element.

43. The computer code of claim 41, wherein determining which element the user is interacting with comprises:

- identifying an element from the plurality of elements that comprise an HTML structure;
- determining a type of the element;
- saving information related to the element;
- determining when the user has selected text; and
- saving the selected text.

44. The computer code of claim 43, wherein identifying an element from the plurality of elements that make up the HTML structure, determining the type of the element, and saving information related to the element are repeated for elements above a first identified element in the HTML structure until an element above the first identified element is no longer valid.

45. A system for providing, from a server of an Internet content provider to a user computer, a modified context menu in place of an existing context menu in existing software, the system comprising:

one or more servers configured for:

providing a client-side software module for modifying an existing

context menu, the client-side software module comprising

additional menu information, the client-side software

module being configured for:

detecting a an event that requires display of a context

menu;

modifying the existing context menu based on the

additional menu information; and

displaying the modified context menu;

wherein the modified context menu is different than the existing context

menu, the modified context menu comprising an additional menu

item as part of the context menu, the additional menu item being

positioned within the modified context menu in accordance with

the additional menu information and not in accordance with the

existing software.

46. The system of claim 45, the existing context menu comprising at least one existing menu item, the additional menu item being positioned above the existing menu item in the modified context menu.

47. The system of claim 45, wherein the modified context menu comprises an icon displayed with the additional menu item.

48. The system of claim 45, wherein the additional menu information comprises information related to an icon to be associated with the additional menu item.

49. The system of claim 45, wherein the additional menu item comprises at least one sub menu that comprises at least one additional sub menu item.

50. The system of claim 45, wherein the client-side software module is provided to a user computer, the user computer displaying a Web page, the Web page being divided into regions, the method further comprising determining in what region the user is interacting with the Web page when the event occurs.

51. The system of claim 50, the client-side software module being further configured for selecting for display the additional menu item from a plurality of potential menu items based on the determined region.

52. The system of claim 45, wherein the client-side software module is provided to a user computer, the user computer displaying a Web page, the Web page comprising a plurality of elements, the servers being further configured for determining which element of the plurality of elements the user is interacting with when the event occurs.

53. The system of claim 52, the client-side software module being further configured for selecting for display the additional menu item from a plurality of potential menu items based on the determined element.

54. The system of claim 52, wherein determining which element the user is interacting with comprises:

identifying an element from the plurality of elements that comprise an

HTML structure;

determining a type of the element;

saving information related to the element;

determining when the user has selected text; and

saving the selected text.

55. The system of claim 54, wherein identifying an element from the plurality of elements that make up the HTML structure, determining the type of the element, and saving information related to the element are repeated for elements above a first identified element in the HTML structure until an element above the first identified element is no longer valid.

56. A method of providing a modified context menu in place of an existing context menu in existing software, the method comprising:

providing, to a user computer displaying a Web page comprising a

plurality of elements, a client-side software module for modifying

an existing context menu, the existing context menu comprising at

least one existing menu item, the client-side software module comprising additional menu information, the client-side software module being configured for:

- detecting an event that requires a context menu;
- modifying the existing context menu based on the additional menu information; and
- displaying the modified context menu, wherein the modified context menu is different than the existing context menu, the modified context menu comprising an additional menu item as part of the context menu, the additional menu item being positioned relative to the existing menu item within the modified context menu in accordance with the additional menu information and not in accordance with the existing software, and wherein the modified context menu comprises an icon displayed with the additional menu item;

identifying an element from the plurality of elements that comprise an HTML structure;

determining a type of the element;

saving information related to the element;

determining when the user has selected text; and

saving the selected text;

wherein identifying an element from the plurality of elements that make up the HTML structure, determining the type of the element, and

saving information related to the element are repeated for elements above a first identified element in the HTML structure until an element above the first identified element is no longer valid and wherein the additional menu item is configured based on the saved information related to the element and the saved text.

57. A method of providing to a user, by an Internet content provider, a modified context menu in place of an existing context menu in existing software, the method comprising:

providing the user with the ability to log in to the content provider;
maintaining for the user a user account comprising user account information,
providing a client-side software module for modifying an existing context menu, the client-side software module comprising additional menu information and being configured for:
detecting an event that requires display of a context menu;
selecting for display the additional menu item from a plurality of potential menu items based on the user account information such that the selection is personalized in accordance with preferences of the user; and
displaying the modified context menu;
wherein the modified context menu is different than the existing context menu, the modified context menu comprising an additional menu item as part of the context menu, the additional menu item being

positioned within the modified context menu in accordance with the additional menu information and not in accordance with existing software; and

wherein the user account information is maintained by the content provider, independent of a first computer having a first browser that the user utilizes, such that the selection of the additional menu item remains personalized should the user utilize a second computer having a second browser.

58. A method of providing a modified context menu in place of an existing context menu in existing software, the method comprising:

accessing additional menu information;
detecting an event that requires display of a context menu;
modifying the existing context menu based on the additional menu information; and
displaying the modified context menu;

wherein the modified context menu is different than the existing context menu, the modified context menu comprising an additional menu item as part of the context menu, the additional menu item being positioned within the modified context menu in accordance with the additional menu information and not in accordance with the existing software.

59. The method of claim 58, the existing context menu comprising at least one existing menu item, the additional menu item being positioned above the existing menu item in the modified context menu.

60. The method of claim 58, wherein the modified context menu comprises an icon displayed with the additional menu item.

61. A method of providing an additional menu item for inclusion in a context menu of one or more existing menu items, the method comprising:
providing information regarding position of the additional menu item within the context menu, the additional menu item not being an existing menu item; and
making the additional menu item available to be displayed to a user as part of the context menu in accordance with the information regarding position.

62. A method of providing an additional menu item for inclusion in a context menu of one or more existing menu items, the method comprising:
providing additional menu information regarding the additional menu item, the additional menu item not being an existing menu item;
receiving context menu information related to the existing menu items;
modifying the context menu information based on the additional menu information; and

making the additional menu item available to be displayed to a user as part of the context menu.

63. The method of claim 62, wherein the additional menu information comprises information regarding position of the additional menu item relative to the existing menu items within the existing context menu.

64. The method of claim 62, further comprising:
determining that a context menu is to be displayed;
in response to determining the context menu is to be displayed, accessing
context menu information related to the existing context menu.

65. The computer code of claim 34, wherein the code is part of a downloadable toolbar application.